A Note on the Fauna of Mangrove. (*With Plate.*)

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Mangrove trees occur commonly in the bays and estuaries of the East African coast, growing on the shore, often just below high tide mark. On the seaward side numerous, erect, aerial roots project through the muddy sand for a considerable distance from the trees. These, especially at high tide, remind one of *Equisetum* growing in a bog hole at home.

On the island of Inhaca, at the entrance to Delagoa Bay, where the writer spent a camping holiday in the winter of 1929, a species of mangrove, probably *Ceriops candolliana*, Arn., is to be found in considerable numbers, lining the shores of the bays, or inlets, of the island. The bark of the trees, which grow to a considerable height, is used by the fishermen and natives for dyeing their nets.

During the intervals between fishing expeditions, some little time was spent in searching the mangroves for any creatures that could be found. Although not the best time of year for collecting quite an interesting mixture of marine and terrestial forms was obtained. Of the latter, insects predominated, and of these, ants comprised the large majority. In the dead branches and stumps, four species of ants, all of which occurred in large numbers, were taken, viz., *Camponotus maculatus*, Fab. race *liengmei*, Forel, *C. grandidieri*, Forel, race *mendax*, Emery, *Crematogaster* (*Acrocoelia*) *gerstaeckeri*, D. T. var. *pudica*, Sants., and *Engramma taylori*, Sants. n. sp. Four species of Coleoptera were also found in the dead wood, none of which were represented in the British Museum collections. They were as follows:—*Trypopitys* sp. (*Anobiidae*); *Gyponyx* sp. (*Cleridae*); and two species of *Pentarthrum* (*Curculionidae*). The Curculionids were fairly numerous, boring in the dead wood, but only one individual of the Clerid, and two individuals of the Anobiid, were found. A species of Termite, which occurred in some numbers, was likewise obtained in the dead wood. One Lepidopterous larva was found feeding upon the leaves, but unfortunately escaped from the matchbox in which it was placed. In addition to the insects, a species of Centipede, and a species of Isopod, were also obtained in the dead wood. Two species of spider were taken, one of which, a sluggish species, occurred in the galleries of *Camponotus grandidieri*. Mention should also be made of a species of lizard belonging to the *Geckonidae*, two individuals of which were found hiding under loose bark.

The marine portion of the mangrove fauna consisted in the main of molluscs belonging to the Gasteropod class. *Pyrazus sulcatus*, Bon., a fairly large species with a spiral shell some 1½ inches in length, was found in large numbers on the muddy sand among the aerial roots; *Cerithidea decollata*, Linn., another species with a spiral shell, slightly over an inch in length and with the apex of the spiral flattened, was found clinging to the trunks; and a species of *Planaxis*, with a shell resembling that of the familiar periwinkle, only somewhat smaller, which was found on the trunks and branches to a height of seven feet, and also crawling upon the leaves. It seemed rather incongruous to find a marine mollusc and a caterpillar upon the same branch. On the bases of the trunks, and on the aerial roots, acorn barnacles were numerous.